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The Spectator

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Volume LXIII
Number XIV

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Jans reoriented to Hamilton campus life

by Anna Richardson '25
STAFF WRITER

Every year, a small portion of the incoming first-year class at Hamilton is given the opportunity to study off-campus for their first semester. These January Admits, or "Jans," come to campus in August for first-year orientation before heading to various locations around the world to spend their fall semester. Following their time abroad, the Jans return to campus from winter break a few days early to get to know Hamilton's campus before starting classes. Typically, there are only about 45 January Admits. Due to the large size of the Class of 2025, however, 66 students participated in various January Admit programs this year and began their time on campus with a second orientation on Jan. 13.

Katie Lehmann '25 spent her fall semester in Hawaii with Carpe Diem, a study abroad program for college students of any year. Lehmann describes her experience as fulfilling and hands-on. "I camped for almost three months on Maui and the Big Island and learned about Hawaiian culture through local volunteer work." Lehmann recognizes that the January Admit program made it possible for her to have this unique and enriching experience, instead of a traditional, on-campus one. "If I wasn't a Jan I would not have been able to do this program which was one of the best experiences of my life." She added that she also used this time to reflect and meet more people before coming to Clinton. "I learned so much about myself before getting to school and met people I likely would have never met."

While her experience in Hawaii was invaluable, she also notes that there are downsides to being off-campus first semester freshman year, as she is not yet as adjusted to life on campus as other first-year students who arrived in the fall are, saying, "I think the biggest downside is just that I am starting behind everyone so it's a little challenging to catch up."

With those downsides in mind, Lehmann is looking forward to continuing to meet people at Hamilton and settling into life on College Hill. "I am looking forward to finding my footing here at Hamilton and getting in a routine, as well as meeting new people," Lehmann explained.

First-year Abby Lonnegren '25 opted to go to London, the most popular first-semester program for Jans. Of the 66 Jans, around 50 went to London this fall. Hamilton partners with the Arcadia University program in London to provide Jans with a strong academic curriculum during their time abroad. Lonnegren appreciates both the community and independence she gained during her time in London. "My favorite part of being a Jan is the close knit group we have as Jans, as well as the opportunity to live somewhere unfamiliar and gain independence in that way," she says.

Despite the rise in COVID cases and the implementation of more guidelines on campus, Lonnegren enjoyed the Jan orientation, finding it a good opportunity to further connections with other Jans and getting to know campus."I loved Jan orientation. All London Jans got a lot closer and our leaders were super welcoming and helpful." Similar to the initial first-year orientation in August, the Jan orientation focused on getting comfortable on campus both geographically and socially. Activities included a welcome dinner, a campus-wide scavenger hunt, a game night, and a bingo night. The Jans also attended the same honor code and community standard meetings on-campus first-years went to during the August orientation. "We played a lot of games, learned about where things were on campus and talked a lot about ways to assimilate onto campus in the second semester," Lonnegren added. Lonnegren is looking forward to taking advantage of on-campus opportunities in the upcoming semester and continuing to make friendships. "This semester I am looking forward to joining clubs and organizations such as the outing club and meeting people who I have a lot in common with," Lonnegren says, "as well as trying new things like climbing and making more friends!"

PHOTO BY HAMILTON COLLEGE

Jans are welcomed into the Barn and greeted with orientation packets and merch.

PHOTO BY HAMILTON COLLEGE

Orientation leaders prepare for Class of 2025 January students to arrive.

Winter rental center opens for the season

by Deanna Durben '25
NEWS EDITOR

On Sat., Jan. 22, the Winter Rental Center opened for the season. It is open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends. Cross-country skis, snowshoes and sleds are available to borrow at the Glen House garage, completely free of charge.

The Winter Rental Center functions under a recreational sports model, so students only need to provide their physical Hill Card to rent equipment, a relatively quick procedure. "Gear fairies", student assistants who staff the center in shifts, are always ready to help. Racks of skis and snowshoes in various sizes are lined up in the garage, and assistance with fittings or getting started is readily available.

According to Sarah Jillings, the assistant director of Outdoor Leadership, the winter rental program was an innovation that started last year. "During COVID, with everybody trying to find as many creative outdoor activities as we could, we bought a fleet of cross-country skis and moved them into the garage with the snowshoes and other gear," she described. Hamilton Outing Club (HOC) summer equipment is also normally available for rental to Hamilton community members, but this setup has made gear much more accessible.

Last year, 108 people came to borrow gear on the first day the Winter Rental Center was opened, clearing out their entire stock of skis. This year, although there are many more activities happening around campus, 30 people logged in on both Jan. 22 and 23 to borrow equipment. Sleds were a particularly popular offering, with plenty of hilly areas to play on around campus, especially the hill by Withiam Field (the lacrosse and soccer field).

Rentals will be available as long as the snow lasts. Jillings estimates that students can likely ski until around March 15, while tools like snowshoes and microspikes will be useful for a while longer.

"Our hope is that we are opening up access for people to be able to get outside and enjoy the winter," Jillings explained. "Campus has so many great resources," she says, and she hopes students and community members will take advantage of them.

To kick off the Winter Rental Center's opening, the Nordic Ski Club led a beginners' cross-country ski clinic on Saturday morning, which 35 people attended. The groomed ski trails on campus are also a relatively new offering, started three to four years ago. There are five to six miles of cross-country ski trails with groomed lanes for skate-skis as well as parallel tracks for classic skiing. The trails are located by the fitness facilities near the Science Center, on the 5k running course and the old golf course.

On the same day, HOC offered a snowshoe hike through Rogers Glen. HOC officers Catherine Fengler '24 and John Myles '24 led the activity with a friendly camaraderie, starting the participants off with a round of introductions and the ice-breaker question "Spiritually, what kitchen implement are you?"

They led the way to Rogers Glen and taught the students how to put on snowshoes, which enable people to walk on top of powdery snow without sinking down. Although Rogers Glen is a further trek from the center of campus, it is the largest forest, stretching to the College's borders. Fengler and Myles think that it is the most underrated forest area on campus. This sentiment was echoed by Nate Cohen '25, who frequently takes walks there. Cohen describes the Glen as "just so pretty in the winter. Seeing all the trees blanketed in snow, it really is magical."

Cohen had only been snowshoeing a couple of times in the past, and had forgotten how much fun it was. The best part of the trip was the group's "great sense of camaraderie," he said. "I had the opportunity to meet new people and catch up with others who I often don't see. Overall, I found the experience really restorative and am definitely planning to do it again."

He is in luck, as the HOC officers hope to lead biweekly snowshoe hikes for the rest of the season, likely on Saturdays and Sundays. They also have tentative plans for bigger events like a candlelit snowshoe hike, so students should keep a lookout for emails.

"We're going to keep offering those intro experiences, so that people get the equipment and become more comfortable using it," said Jillings. She hopes that students will keep coming back independently once they have gained some proficiency, and take advantage of the trails.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Fri., Jan. 20

10:02 a.m. Parking Complaint — Parking Lots: Morris House

Sat., Jan. 21

12:01 a.m. Noise Complaint — Milbank Residence Hall

8:50 a.m. Fire Alarm — Buttrick Hall

10:18 p.m. Noise Complaint — Major Residence Hall

Sun., Jan. 22

1:51 a.m. Medical Emergency — South Campus

8:51 a.m. Assist — Parking Lots: Root Student

11:16 a.m. Concern For Welfare — Glenview-B

2:17 p.m. Area Check — Bundy West Residence Hall

3:17 p.m. Medical Emergency — North Residence Hall

3:24 p.m. Area Check — Athletic Center

3:48 p.m. Area Check — North Residence Hall

8:59 p.m. Odor Of Marijuana — North Campus

Mon., Jan. 23

11:20 a.m. Medical Emergency — Commons

Tue., Jan. 24

12:18 a.m. Concern For Welfare — Bundy West Residence Hall

9:27 a.m. Complaint — Milbank Residence Hall

1:29 p.m. Parking Complaint — Mail Center

Wed., Jan. 25

1:10 a.m Area Check — Skenandoa Residence Hall

2:37 p.m Medical Emergency — Dunham Residence Hall

6:09 p.m. Area Check — Kirkland Residence Hall

10:28 p.m Area Check — Commons

11:13 p.m. Medical Emergency — Keehn Residence Hall

Thurs., Jan. 26

9:44 a.m. Parking Complaint — Other Parking Lot

Hi everyone,

We at *The Spectator* are excited to welcome everyone back to campus, especially our Jans and those returning from study abroad! We hope you all had a safe and restful break.

As the world is two years deep into the pandemic now, much that once seemed strange has now settled in as the new norm. Even though we are once again adhering to new guidlines this semester, we at *The Spec* are confident that as protocols adapt, so can we. We greatly look forward to continuing to represent the most resilient campus community.

Be sure to look out for our weekly print issues of *The Spec* around popular campus locations such as Commons, McEwen, Burke, KJ and SCCT to catch up on all things relevant to the Hamilton community. We also publish our articles virtually at spec.hamilton.edu.

Finally... Do you like journalism? Have you ever wanted to see your name in print? Do you take photos? Or do you just have a massive crush on Eric and want to hang out with him for a while (we get it, it's the hair)? If you answered yes to any of these questions, catch us at the Club Fair next Friday, Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and we can give you the deets on all things *Spec*!

Welcome Back,
Emma Mae and Eric

The Spectator

is looking for social media editors, web editors and individuals who want to distribute the paper to join our staff!

follow us on instagram and twitter!

Visit us online!
spec.hamilton.edu

Celebrating 174 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Hamilton Horoscopes

by Emma Swan '23
Guest Star astrologist

This is the final week of the Venus retrograde, which has been ongoing in Capricorn since December 19th. Venus rules over love and our values. It retrogrades once every year and a half, and old conflicts in relationships and finance tend to surface during this time. Each sign is affected by these conflicts in a different way –read below to see how you can expect it to influence you this week.

Jan. 20-Feb. 18: Aquarius
February 19-March 20: Pisces
March 21-April 19: Aries
April 20-May 20: Taurus
May 21-June 20: Gemini
June 21-July 22: Cancer
July 23-August 22: Leo
August 23-Sept. 22: Virgo
Sept. 23-Oct. 22: Libra
Oct.23-Nov. 21: Scorpio
Nov. 22-Dec. 21: Sagittarius
Dec. 22-Jan. 19: Capricorn

Aries
Now is the time for getting serious about boosting relationships with coworkers and people who support your ambition. This retrograde is staged in your tenth house, which rules over careers and professions. You may feel a lack of sincerity or sincerity this week; consider why you value these people in the first place, and remember that Venus retrograde can stunt expressions of affection in those around you. See how their actions and plans factor into your ambition, and make judgements from there.

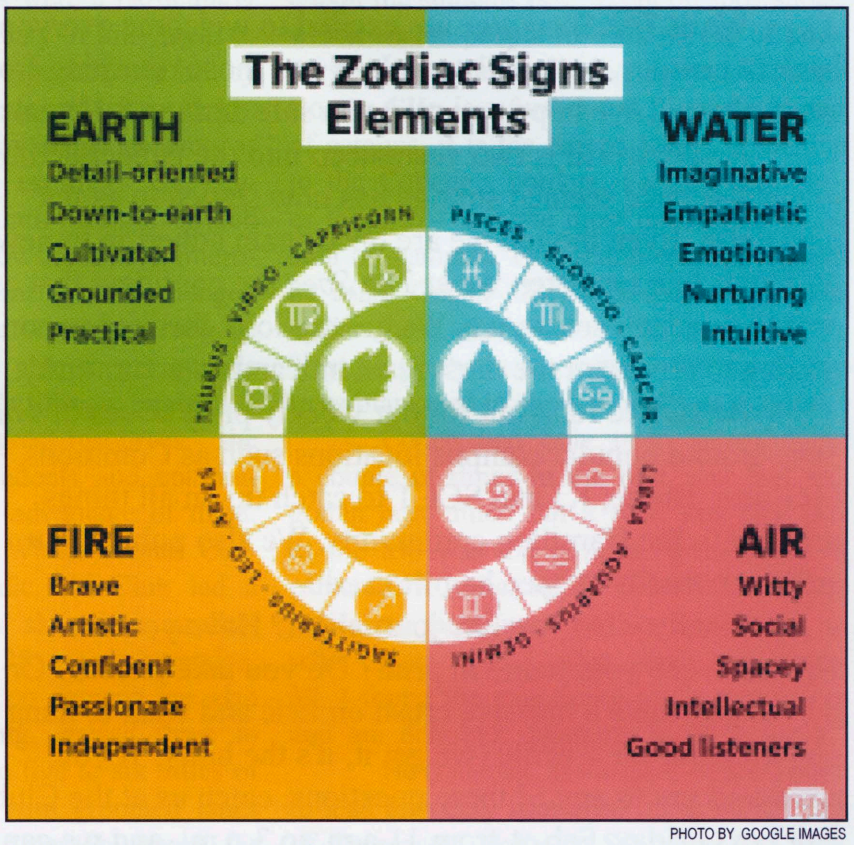
Taurus
Venus is bringing its energy into your house of purpose this week. Reassess what you are curious about; now is a great time to make plans about the future of your education and consider what you are really interested in.

Gemini
With a retrograde in your eighth house, you may experience a conflict in who you are sharing resources with, whether those resources are material possessions or emotional energy. You should take time to consider if they are worth the effort or if there is a better place for that energy to go, and see if those assessments stick after the retrograde.

Cancer
Venus is retrograding in your seventh house, which rules relationships and partnerships. As tempting as it might be, this is a terrible week for you to begin or end relationships. You may receive new information about how your partnerships work and interact with your values. As Venus comes in, continue to assess who and what is most important to you, and be open to changes of the heart both this week and next.

Leo
You may find in the next week that your routines and schedules are called into question, and issues that have come up before will come to a head. Is your schedule pushing you towards your goals or holding you back? What aspects of your routine are important to you?

Virgo
With a retrograde in your fifth house, pay some attention to a creative project or new romance in your life. Is it fulfilling? Does it fit into long-term plans you have for yourself? A retrograde in your house of creativity and leisure can make new things seem better or worse than they actually are, and you may find that next week, you will regret impulsive decisions you made.



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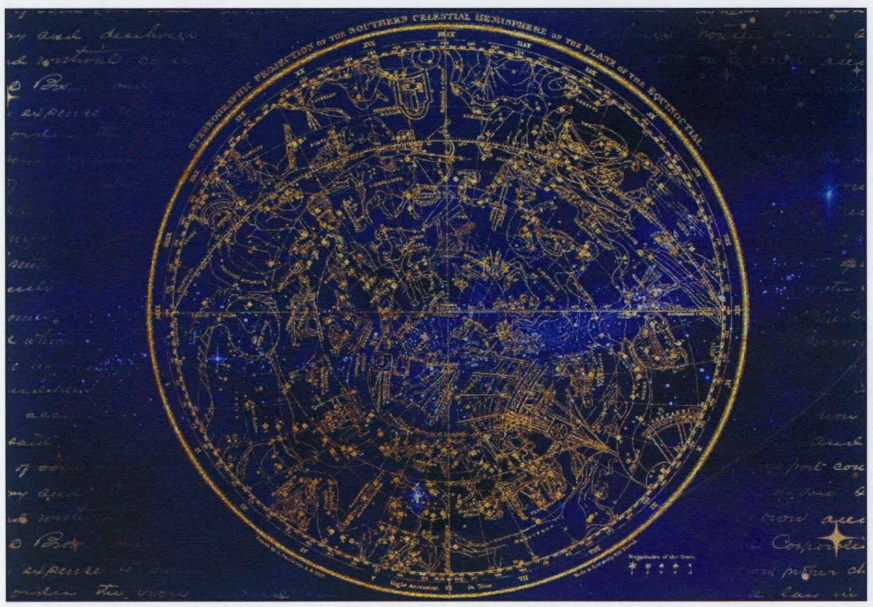
PHOTO BY GOOGLE IMAGES

Libra
Venus's retrograde in your fourth house will ask you to consider what aspects in your life you use to root for yourself – are they reliable? You may experience feelings of insecurity or discomfort in the next week. reassess what makes you comfortable while you have a heightened sense of your needs.

Scorpio
Venus retrograde asks us to reassess, and in your order-oriented third house, you will find it easier to make plans to structure collaborative efforts, and to promote genuine connections; you may be sensitive in this time to people overstepping or giving what appear to be platitudes. Keep these things in mind, but avoid taking major action on them, as Venus retrograde can skew our perception of affection and protocol.

Sagittarius
This retrograde is affecting your second house, which rules over material value. Consider or create a budget or a financial plan. What possessions or skills do you actually value? What do you want to put your effort into? Avoid making major financial decisions until next week, but allow this retrograde to change your perspective.

Capricorn
Venus's retrograde hits you especially hard as it takes place under Capricorn. It's time to reflect on your relationship with yourself. How are you manifesting a long-term investment in self-improvement? You are more in touch with your deeper needs and wants right now, so this is a good time to judge what you are doing to meet them.

Aquarius
This retrograde is happening in your more spiritual twelfth house, so you may experience some crisis of faith or intuition during this retrograde cycle. It is important to focus on the judgements you have made in the past too, not just your suspicion in the present.

Pisces
This retrograde is shaking up your eleventh` house, concerning support and the fruits of your labors. Take stock of your support system and the groups of which you consider yourself a part. You may experience turbulence in these networks this week; pay attention to what values you feel are in conflict. It is hard to trust during a Venus retrograde, so do your best to remember that.

Bachelor & Bachelorette

Yongwoo Park '24

PHOTO BY YONGWOO PARK '24

Hometown: Ewing, NJ.
Home on Campus: Detroot.
Major: Physics.
Turn on? Orientation leaders.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, who would you pick and why? BabyTron and RX-Nephew.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? Eat mor chikin.
What TV genre best describes you? Legal drama.
What's your type? Public Policy girls.
What are three things you cannot live without? Soundcloud, erasers and socks.
If you were any social space, what would it be? Rugby wall.
Where do you go when you want to be alone? Don't worry about that.
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? Phi Beta Chi.
What's your Patronus and why? Hippopotamus cuz they're valid.
What would you give a thumbs up? Heads that be moving tactically.
What would you give a thumbs down? Birkenstocks, Bean Boots and Patagonia
Who would you say is your campus crush? Ella Gaspar.
Who would you say is your faculty crush? None of my professors have been baddies to be honest.
What would your perfect date be? If we hold hands it's valid.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? Kuck.
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? Getting caught with a glizzy.
If you were a food, which would you be and why? Glizzy because I'm a number one offense.
Lights on or lights off? Candles.
Favorite campus study spot? List.
What's the last lie you told? The faculty crush question.
What was your first thought this morning? Damn my roommate looking delicious.
What's the meaning of life? Enjoy the moment.
Which member of Disney royalty are you? King Bingleborp.
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? FDR because the New Deal was hype.

If you are interseted in being our next Bachelor or Bachlorette, email us at featspec@hamilton.edu!

Ella Gaspar '22

PHOTO BY ELLA GASPAR '22

Hometown: Redding, CT.
Home on Campus: Basement of the library.
Major: Public Policy.
Turn on? Seahorses.
Turn off? The color orange.
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? Buttrick because I am fire.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, who would you pick and why? Albert Einstein and Dua Lipa.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? The best a man can get - Gillette.
What TV genre best describes you? Extreme obstacle courses.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? Do you have hemophilia?
What's your type? Non-hemophiliacs.
What are three things you cannot live without? Buttons, Eggs, amd my heart.
Where do you go when you want to be alone? Commons at 6pm.
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? Juggling club.
What's your Patronus and why? Will Ling.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? Harboring gophers.
What would you give a thumbs up? Everything, it is my favorite pose.
What would you give a thumbs down? Will Ling.
Who would you say is your campus crush? Emma Hunter.
What would your perfect date be? Building the world's largest yarn ball.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? World's largest yarn ball.
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? Setting off the fire alarm because you don't know how to cook.
If you were a food, which would you be and why? Eggs, no explanation needed.
Lights on or lights off? That thing where you balance the switch in the middle.
Favorite campus study spot? Under Maddie Hurtgen's bed.
What's the last lie you told? I got the Wordle on the first try.
What was your first thought this morning? Wordle time.
Which member of Disney royalty are you? Scrat from Ice Age.
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? Your mom.

The death of Student Assembly

by Matthew Collins '24
OPINION EDITOR

This semester sees the official inductions of Emily Jiang '25 as President and of Marvin Lopez '23 as Vice President of the Hamilton College Student Assembly. The tumultuous events of this past fall saw numerous resignations in response to a series of contentious actions on the part of former Assembly members. The ongoing turnover provides an excellent juncture to turn a new leaf and help restore student confidence in their own governing apparatus.

While Jiang and Lopez promised responsiveness in their campaign material (alongside a slew of other policy ambitions), achieving this goal will be challenging. Their committee's recent struggles are not so much personnel-related as they are endemic to the organization's current state of affairs. With ill-defined roles, worrying opacity, and the potential for abuses of power, the Student Assembly is coming apart at the seams.

One of the ongoing obstacles to the Assembly's efficacy is the lack of a clearly outlined role in its Constitution. Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Student Assembly of Hamilton College delineates that the Assembly's role consists of, among other obligations, both "provid[ing] the governing bodies of the College-

PHOTO BY HAMILTON COLLEGE

Student Assembly oversees funding for student organizations and events.

with the best possible understanding of the sentiment and opinions of the student body," and "pass[ing] legislation... consistent with the wishes of the student body." One can read these roles as either a mandate for Student Assembly to assume all non-essential functions at Hamilton or to act as a glorified advisory board. If the direction of student wishes is already delineated to the Assembly, then claims that the body is meant to be solely symbolic are doubtful. However, if Assembly members are meant to merely pass legislation with prior student approval, then the entire trustee system of the Assembly is unnesecary, merely performing a task easily accomplished by student votes. As it stands, the lack of a clear description of the body's role leaves arguments over jurisdiction, with both the Assembly and the administration incentivized to strong-arm one another over contested ground that ought to have already been specifically designated. The Constitution's ambiguity and contradictions manifest themselves in the Assembly's mission statement;

PHOTO BY HAMILTON COLLEGE

Student Assembly advertises their organization for new students.

consequently, serious work is necessary to clear up the further inconsistencies that are within the text. Another further concern looming over the Student Assembly is the continuing ambiguity with regards to its operations. While Assembly meeting videos are technically accessible to Hamilton students, and voting records are released each semester, these accommodations are laughably inadequate. The Assembly knows full well that students have limited time to themselves since the apex of the COVID pandemic, as is evidenced in prior rhetoric from past Assembly members surrounding the mental health of students. Yet, the only unedited form in which students may access these meetings post eventum is in video format, which takes noticeably longer to ingest than a transcript. Assembly transcripts are noticeably shortened and abridged, which affords significant power to the transcriber; while the events of last semester do not throw this position into question, the conflict of interest for an Assembly member recording the events of a deliberative body in which they also participate is clear. The fact that neither the Assembly itself nor the administration has offered to create a non-partisan recordkeeping role is incredibly telling of a shared aversion to forthcoming communication with the student body.

Yet another cause for concern is the ease with which Assembly members can abuse their power. The actions concerning last semester's events were an unmitigated embarrassment to the Hamilton student body, yet every single resignation that followed in its aftermath was completely voluntary. Student Assembly members are not held accountable to their fellow students in any capacity; it speaks volumes that Article VII of the Constitution, which describes the conditions and processes by which members are removed from power, contains no provision whatsoever for a recall. All it realistically takes is one person in a position of power to completely disrupt student governmental proceedings, and if the other Assembly members refuse to take action, then students are afforded no means by which they may intervene. A democratic institution whose representatives are insulated from accountability for their actions is not just a sham, not just an insult to its constituents, but a veritable wolf in sheep's clothing.

Any one of these challenges is a considerable hurdle to overcome on its own; combined, they are near-insurmountable, even with significant and severe alterations to the Constitution. The Hamilton College Student Assembly is effectively dead, plagued by functional inconsistencies, obfuscations of transparency, and no clear means of preempting abuses of power. Without a drastic restructuring and revision of the Constitution, including a fundamental alteration of the relationship between student governance and the college administration, its self-immolation will persist ad infinitum. I wish Jiang and Lopez all the best in their tenures as President and Vice President, and sincerely hope that they may bring stability and positive reform to a declining institution.

January 27, 2022

How the U.S. can approach potential conflict between Ukraine and Russia

by William Rampe '24
OPINION EDITOR

Russian aggression along the Ukrainian border has led to the United States taking precautionary steps with regards to the family members of its Embassy staff. The U.S. ordered the departure of family members of U.S. government employees at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, while also authorizing the voluntary departure of government employees. According to the State Department, the reason for this decision comes from an abundance of caution due to continued Russian efforts to destabilize Ukraine and undermine the security of Ukrainian citizens. The State Department also declared that the U.S. would be unable to evacuate U.S. citizens in the event of a Russian invasion of Ukraine. "I think this a prudent step...a step that will still allow the Embassy to do its job," said veteran diplomat and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor regarding the evacuation. In an interview with NBC News, Taylor emphasized that the U.S. should be prepared for Russian President Vladimir Putin to "make a bad decision" that puts the lives of Russian soldiers and Ukrainian citizens at risk. President Biden highlighted the threat posed by a Russian invasion stating that, "If he were to move in with all those forces, it would be the largest invasion since World War II. It would change the world."

PHOTO BY THIBAULT CAMUS/ POOL/ AFP

(From left) Ukrainian President Volodymer Zelensky, French President Emmanuel Macron, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and former German Chancellor Angela Merkel attend a meeting on Ukraine at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on Dec. 9, 2019.

Taking the precautionary step of evacuating the Ukrainian Embassy demonstrates that the Biden Administration does not want to repeat the mistakes of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, when U.S. personnel evacuated as the Taliban entered into Kabul. The Afghanistan evacuation led to the introduction of 1,000 new U.S. troops. Avoiding this type of disaster is wise; however, it does not diminish the threat Putin poses to Ukraine and the non-evacuated U.S. citizens living there still remain. Providing additional resources to assist with this evacuation, such as emergency visas and transportation vehicles, could help both U.S. and Ukrainian citizens escape a possible warzone. This humanitarian focus corresponds with the interests of the U.S. since these citizens can be better protected outside of Ukraine and diplomatic proceedings between Russia and Ukraine can be further pursued without U.S. citizens being at risk. Russia has been attempting to bring Ukraine into its sphere of influence ever since the fall of the Soviet Union; however, Ukraine has aligned itself more closely to NATO during this time. Russia previously invaded the former Soviet state of Georgia in 2008 to support South Ossetia and Abkhazian separatists and invaded the Ukrainian territory of Crimea in 2014 in order to, as Putin stated during an interview, "ensure proper conditions for the people of Crimea to freely express their will." Political pressures in Russia, such as protests against the arrest of opposition leader Alexei Navalny in 2021 and NATO's post-Cold War enlargement in the former Soviet states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, are cited as reasons for Russian aggression in these regions. Both explain Russia's aggression towards Ukraine, despite the self-determinist terms Putin may present.

PHOTO BY VOA NEWS

A satellite image was taken Nov. 1, 2021, and released by Maxar Technologies showing Russian troops along the Ukrainian border.

Invading Ukraine seems to be an unlikely and irrational venture for Putin when considering the diplomatic and economic isolation it would cause for Russia. Sanctions imposed by Western governments after the invasion of Crimea have hurt the Russian economy, and the U.S. and its allies are planning a ban on tech exports. However, an invasion cannot be ruled out due to Putin's notoriously unpredictable and deceptive foreign policy. The U.S. should therefore protect its citizens and give Ukrainians an opportunity to escape by providing visas and means of transportation out of Ukraine. The State Department acknowledged that the U.S. would "not be in a position" to evacuate U.S. citizens in the event of an invasion. This fact must change in order to best protect the lives of Ukrainians and Americans alike.

PHOTO BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This current map of the border between Ukraine and Russia depicts the occupation of Crimea.

"Who the Hell Are We?" Junior Art Show

by Emma Bowman '24
A&E EDITOR

Over the past month, the junior art show,"Who the Hell Are We?," has been in display in the Kennedy Center Linda Johnson Gallery, featuring a collection of artworks presented by Shelly Cao, Andrew Carlson, Surya Gowda, Rachel Han, Claire Harpel, Emlyn Harris, Olivia Holbrook, Katie Jenkinson, Noah Jones, Daniella Metti, Fiona Murphy, Lauren Neese, Irene Park, Juasline Plasencia, Talia Rosen, Mariam Saied, Zoe Sauvé, Alex Seewald, Kiera Wax and Rory Woods, who are all from the Class of 2023. The pieces on display allowed these artists to showcase aspects of their identities through a variety of mediums, and it was a monumental success.

Rory Woods '23 stated that the exhibit "gave [the artists] the opportunity to explore what [they] want to create and how that reflects on [them]. The projects displayed are almost self-portraits in every case; each student is taking this moment to step out and play with their own unique style and perception." This sentiment is easily seen while walking through the gallery.

Psychosis 1841 by Noah Jones '23 is hard to miss. The artwork is presented on four large planks of wood, propped up against the wall and towering overhead. The piece features a barren tree with alarming faces hanging in lieu of leaves. Through the facial expressions, Jones illustrates the phases of Psychosis (premodal, acute, and recovery) triggered by the negative impacts the Covid-19 pandemic has had on individuals around the world. Its abstract composition allows viewers to reflect on their own experiences during the pandemic and the impact it may have had on their mental health.

Juxtaposing the more serious artworks, *I Swear I'm Not a Stoner* offers a bright and whimsical appearance complete with mushroom homes, a baby deer, and a magical looking waterfall. Wax explains that her inspiration comes from the fantasy stories and iSpy books she loved as a child, and that nostalgic storybook feel comes across through the color scheme and 15 hidden objects for viewers to find. Although the work appears simple at first glance, Wax used oil paints—a notoriously complicated me-

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PHOTO BY EMMA BOWMAN '24

Propped against the wall is *Psychosis 1841* by Noah Jones '23.

PHOTO BY EMMA BOWMAN '24

On display is ***I Swear I'm Not a Stoner*** **by Kiera Wax '23.**

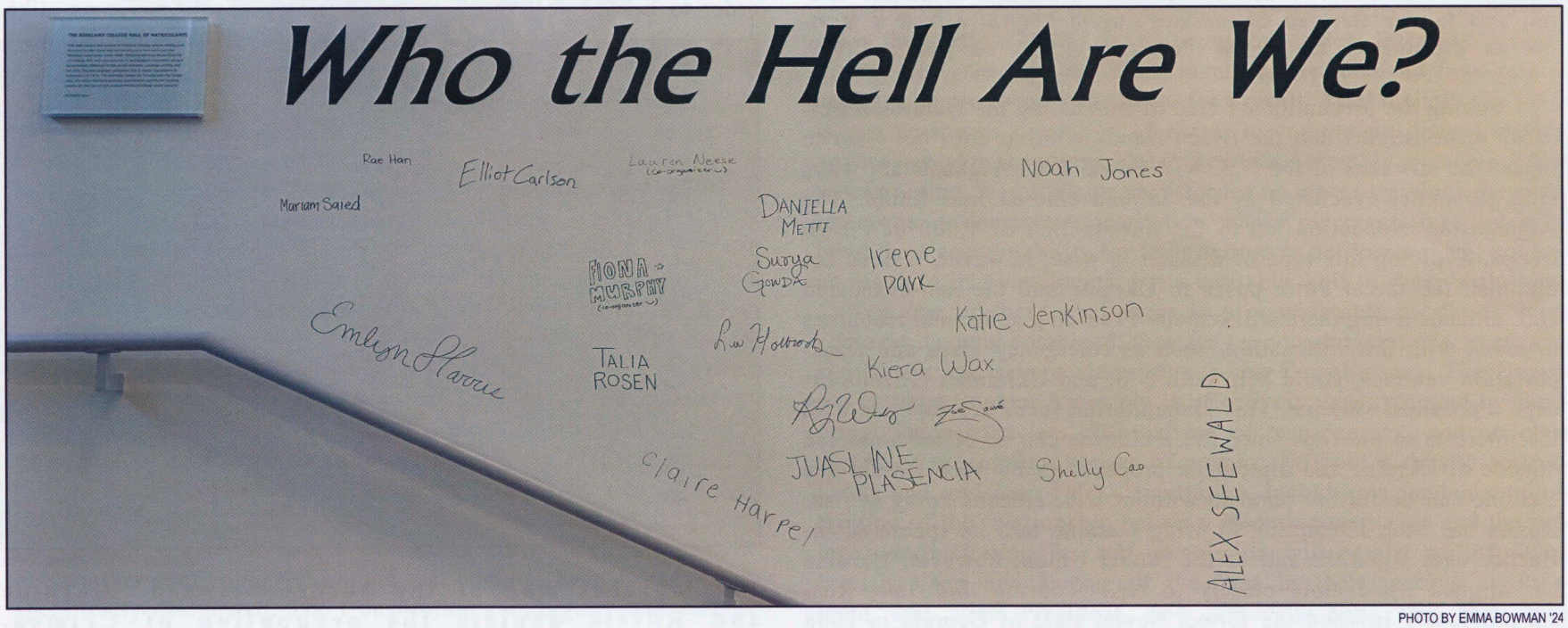

PHOTO BY EMMA BOWMAN '24

All 20 junior artists whose works appeared in the "Who the Hell Are We?" exhibit affixed their signatures to the display.

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dium to work with—and delicately crafted the tiny, functional doors. Additionally, the 3D leaves on the tree pull everything together and add a nice texture to the otherwise flat setting.

The final piece of interest is *Altered Choctaw Ceremonial Dress* by Lauren Neese '23, which boldly stands in the middle of the exhibit. At first glance, it looks like a simple blue dress with white patterns on the hem, but upon closer inspection, there are words painted along the seams. These words turned out to be names of treaties the Choctaw Nation signed in giving up land to the United States government in exchange for payment. On the apron of the dress, tiny red footprints trail along the bottom hem, symbolizing the Trail of Tears, which the Choctaw were forced to walk. In addition to the dress, a beaded necklace lies around the neck of the mannequin and two earrings are hooked into the collar. This traditional jewelry was made in the Choctaw "netted" style and allows the viewers to admire the beautiful techniques that come from the tribe.

The exhibit offers an extremely interesting experience, and is well worth a visit. It is an impressive representation of the talent in the junior class here at Hamilton. There is still time to visit the exhibit, as it closes on Friday, Jan 28.

PHOTO BY EMMA BOWMAN '24

***Altered Choctaw Ceremonial Dress* by Lauren Neese '23 is displayed.**

Arts and Entertainment Upcoming Events

Welcome back! As students return to campus this semester, the college has planned multiple amazing Arts and Entertainment events for Hamilton community members to take part in. We in Arts and Entertainment urge you to take a break from your studies to have some fun during these long winter months. Here are some upcoming events to add to your schedule!

by Lily Rizzoli '24
A&E EDITOR

4:00 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 27
Wellin Museum Open Studio
WELLIN MUSEUM ARCHIVE HALL, MAP #86
Wellin Open Studio Abstract Painting Party

Spruce up your dorm room by making some new art at the Wellin's abstract painting party. This is not your typical paint party—create an original, geometric, metallic painting inspired by artist Eamon Ore-Giron using masking tape and quick-drying acrylic paints. We will provide canvases for you to take home and all tools needed for your creation.

8:00 a.m. Fri., Jan. 28
Junior Art Show "Who the Hell are We?"
KENNEDY CENTER LINDA JOHNSON GALLERY, MAP #84

Junior Art Show "Who the Hell are We?" Linda Johnson Gallery, KTSA with students: Shelly Cao, Andrew Carlson, Surya Gowda, Rachel Han, Claire Harpel, Emlyn Harris, Olivia Holbrook, Katie Jenkinson, Noah Jones, Daniella Metti, Fiona Murphy, Lauren Neese, Irene Park, Juasline Plasencia, Talia Rosen, Mariam Saied, Zoe Sauvé, Alex Seewald, Kiera Wax and Rory Woods.

PHOTO BY GOOGLE IMAGES

PHOTO BY GOOGLE IMAGES

PHOTO BY GOOGLE IMAGES

8:30 p.m. Sun., Jan. 30
Euphoria Watch Party
SADOVE STUDENT CENTER 118 MASSOLO SUN PORCH, MAP #17

Join us to watch HBO's Euphoria! Snacks will be provided.

5:00 p.m. Mon., Jan. 31
Study Abroad Info Session: Arts & Music
CHRISTIAN A. JOHNSON (CJ) 101, MAP #65

Arcadia University will share information about study abroad programs best suited for Fine Arts and Music students. Join us to learn more.

1:00 p.m. Wed., Feb. 2
Knit and Stitch
SADOVE STUDENT CENTER 118 MASSOLO SUN PORCH, MAP #17

Knitting Circle for students and employees: bring your yarn and lunch for a knit and stitch.

Have an event you want featured in this column?
Email us at specarts@hamilton.edu!

Event information courtesy of the Hamilton College Website.

February 7th - 20th
FEB FEST
2022
Get ready for a bunch of fun events to celebrate winter and community!
There will be SWAG DROPS and opportunities to participate in competitions for prizes!
Full schedule of events COMING SOON...

The Magic of the Australian Open

by Owen Lewis '24
SPORTS EDITOR

"Owen, are you falling asleep on me?" My professor peered at me curiously as I leaned semiconsciously on my hand.

"Uh, yeah, sorry," I answered. I wish I could say I was being sarcastic, but I was just too exhausted to formulate a decent answer. The 2021 Australian Open was raging, and I had spent the last few nights staying up until ungodly hours or setting my alarm for 3:00 a.m. to watch tennis.

Every year, I get more invested in tennis, and I try to push my limits farther when it comes to the Australian Open. Last year, I overextended myself in the middle of the tournament and ended up too wiped out to write anything about it. When I watched the Australian Open for the first time in 2017, I only woke up to watch the finals. Now, missing even the first round hurts.

As a rule, I usually avoid naps, since upon waking up from them, my mouth tends to taste even worse than it does after that first bite of quasi-raw Commons chicken. However, this year I have started taking long naps to bank hours of sleep so I can stay up well into the early morning. On Jan. 18, the Australian Open had a great lineup of third-round matches. I wanted to watch several of them, so I stayed up from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. I had no sleep that night. After struggling through my class the next day, I slept for 14 of the next 19 hours. On Jan. 24, I did another all-nighter to watch a few quarterfinals.

The Australian Open is more than worth the lack of sleep. It is a magical two weeks: seven rounds, 128 players in the men's and women's singles draws. Since it is at the start of the year, players are eager to set the tone for a new season and are energized after the offseason. As such, most are willing to play exhausting matches in Melbourne's relentless heat. Relentless might be understating it—temperatures at the Australian Open frequently soar above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. In 2009, my family and I took a trip to Melbourne while the Australian Open was happening. Tragically, I was not a tennis fan yet, and did not watch it on TV with my parents. Every day we were there, it was at least 105 °F. One day was 117 °F. I remember feeling fatigued seconds after stepping outside.

On Jan. 23, Simona Halep and Alizé Cornet played a torturous fourth-round match in unforgiving conditions. After an hour—not considered a long time to be on a tennis court—Halep was hunching over after every single point. One point was so brutal that Halep took a momentary break, hands on knees, while the ball was still in play. She ended up winning the point anyway. "It's inhuman," Cornet said when reminded by the umpire that she could only take 25 seconds between points. Cornet, who was winning the match at this stage, begged the chair umpire to close the roof of the stadium to create cooler conditions. They denied her request. Each time a player had to run more than a few steps at once felt like a wrecking-ball-sized blow to their midsection.

Cornet eventually won the match. She has been playing professionally for over a decade and a half, but had never advanced as far as the quarterfinals at one of the four majors. When she built a lead in the first half of the match and Halep came back to tie it, more fourth-round misery seemed at hand for Cornet. Yet she refused to be blocked again by the fourth round and ended up outlasting Halep.

After the match, Jelena Dokic interviewed Cornet. At the Australian Open in 2009, Cornet was slated to play Dokic in the quarterfinals, but lost in her fourth round match despite being a point away from winning multiple times. Cornet and Dokic hugged. Dokic congratulated Cornet on making her first major quarterfinal. Cornet said how happy she was. Dokic congratulated Cornet again, signaling the end of the interview. "Wait," Cornet said, then commended Dokic for moving on with her life. Dokic had been physically and mentally abused repeatedly by her father from the tender age of six until deep into her playing career. The trauma almost drove her to commit suicide. "You were an amazing player, and now you are an amazing commentator," Cornet told Dokic. She urged the crowd to applaud. They did. Cornet had been crying tears of joy at the start of the interview, then Dokic did the same as it concluded. It was a lovely moment.

PHOTO BY MARTIN KEEP

As Alizé Cornet (far) celebrates an emotional victory, Simona Halep (near) leans on the net in exhaustion.

For two weeks, the Australian Open produces tennis matches imbued with the stories of players' careers. Aging veterans make final grabs at glory. Young upstarts try to prove themselves. The athletic feats are incredible. Players slide on the cement court to change direction after sprinting for a ball, which you kind of just have to see in action to understand or believe. The tournament is like an epic novel, year after year. It all plays out on blue tennis courts, for which one adjective is not sufficient description. The courts are deeply, vibrantly blue. They are blue the way David Wippman is bald; it is their all-encompassing visual characteristic. They are beautiful.

The Australian Open is at pretty much the worst time possible (it ends on Jan. 30), but if you find yourself awake at three in the morning in the next few days, fire up ESPN and give it a try. You will probably see something special.

January 27, 2022

Swimming and Diving deliver strong performances post Winter Break

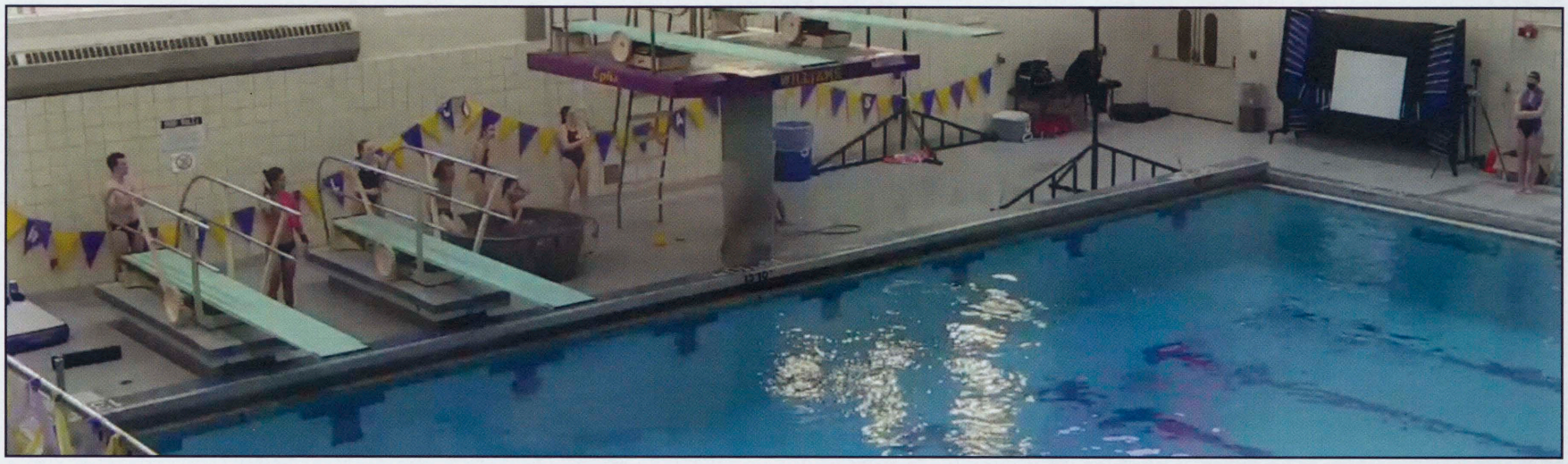

PHOTO BY NSN SPORTS

Carolyn Gevinski '22 mid-dive at the Swimming and Diving team's recent meet at Williams College.

by Caitlin Gooding '24
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

While most of the student body was relaxing at home over winter break, winter sports teams like Hamilton College's Swimming and Diving team were training incredibly hard on campus. Their hard work paid off in their most recent meets since the break.

On Jan. 19, 2022, Hamilton College hosted Union College in a dual meet and won 336-123. This was the first home meet that Hamilton students could attend in over two years, and the Continentals undoubtedly showed up for the occasion. The energy in the Bristol Pool was on par to the performance by the team.

Five Hamilton swimmers earned two golds: Samantha Karlson '23 won the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle, Irene Keh '24 won the 100-yard breaststroke and the 400 IM, Luke Engel '25 won the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle, Marissa Duffy '25 won the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle and Ben Howell '24 won the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle. The team swept multiple events: the women's team placed first through fourth in the 200 Medley relay, took the top three spots the 200-yard freestyle, and the men's team swept the podium in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 200 freestyle relay.

On the diving springboards, Carolyn Gevinski '22 placed second in the 3M and 1M diving, followed by Maggie Nye '24, who took third in both events.

Next, the team traveled to Williams College to compete in a tri-meet against Williams College and Middlebury College. Despite COVID-19's impact on the team, they performed well against nationally ranked Williams and Middlebury.

On the men's team, senior captain Nick Wilkins '22 won the men's 100-yard breaststroke and placed third in the 50-yard breaststroke. Jack Jee '24 won the 200 IM and got fourth place in the very competitive 50-yard and 100-yard butterfly races. Ethan Chiu '24 placed third in the 1,000-yard freestyle.

For the women's team, Samantha Karlson '23 grabbed first place in the 100-yard freestyle, placed second in the 50-yard free, and added a third-place finish in the 200-yard free. Madison Goodman-Leong '25 placed second in the 200-yard freestyle. Irene Keh '24 and Caroline Shen '24 placed third in the 200 IM and the 50-yard backstroke, respectively.

For diving, Maggie Nye '24 placed third in the 1M diving and fourth in the 3M diving and Carolyn Gevinski placed fifth in the 3M and 1M diving.

Swimming and Diving hosted Division 1 Colgate University on Jan. 26 for their last home meet of the season, and third to last meet before the NESCAC Championships.

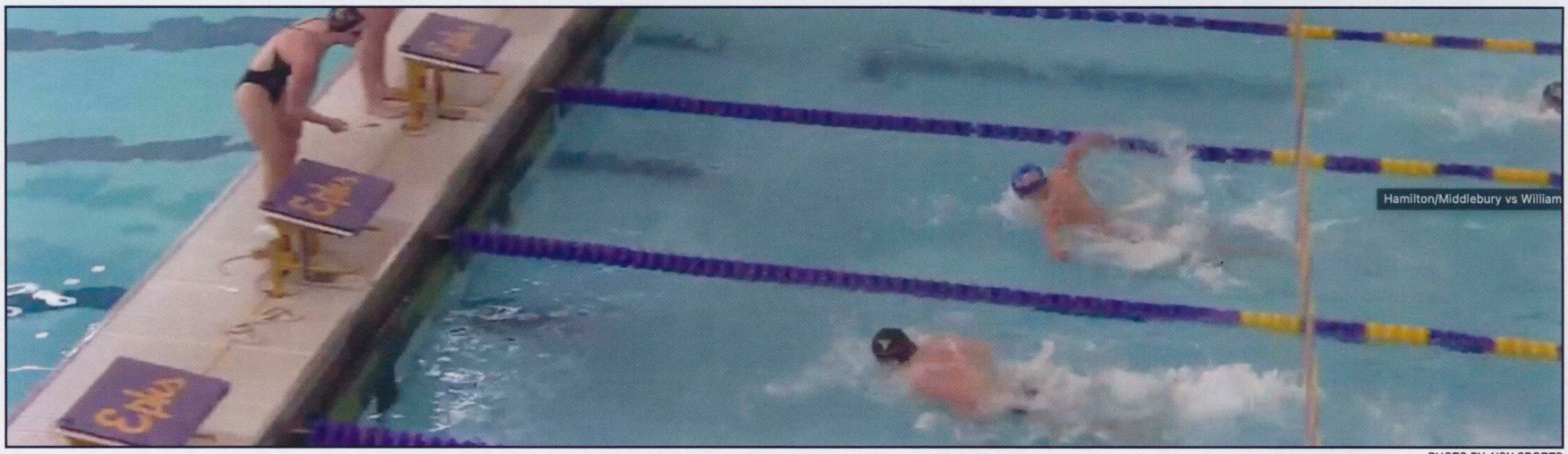

PHOTO BY NSN SPORTS

Jack Jee '24 competes in the 50-yard butterfly. Jee finished fourth with a strong time of 23.73 seconds in the final.